



Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



New York's 28th District

Spring 2004



Dear Friends,

It is a true honor and privilege to continue to serve the 28th Congressional District in the U.S. Congress. Please take a few moments to read about my activities in Washington and in the district.

As always, never hesitate to contact my offices for assistance. Useful information can also be found at my new web site, www.louise.house.gov.

Sincerely,

*Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress*

Answering Your Questions and Concerns About the New Medicare Law

In February, Rep. Slaughter hosted two major educational forums to answer her constituents' questions about the new Medicare law. The events, attended by hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries and health care advocates in Buffalo and Rochester, helped answer questions about how the new legislation will affect benefits and drug coverage.

The Medicare overhaul bill, which made the largest changes to the program since its creation, was signed into law last year. Rep. Slaughter, who opposed the bill, explained

that the legislation has several flaws. It does nothing to reduce the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs and will force Medicare

beneficiaries into HMOs. Contact her office for an informational packet on how this bill will affect you and your family.



Rep. Slaughter and health care expert Bill Vaughan answered questions about changes to Medicare at forums in Buffalo and Rochester.

Louise's Legislation

The Safeguarding Schoolchildren of Deployed Soldiers Act of 2004.

Rep. Slaughter introduced this bipartisan bill after learning that a student in the Niagara-Wheatfield Central School District was told she had to change high schools because she was living outside the district while her father served in Iraq. New York State law guarantees that students can stay in their school district if they move because of a parent's deployment, and the student was allowed to stay at her high school. Rep. Slaughter introduced the bill to ensure that children of deployed parents in other states can stay at their schools.

The Badge and Uniform Security and Trustworthiness Act of 2004.

This bill will crack down on the misuse of public safety officer uniforms, badges and other insignia. Rep. Slaughter introduced the legislation in response to the murder of a Rochester-area Xerox employee during a bank robbery last summer by a man posing as an FBI agent.

The Residual Radioactive Contamination Compensation Act of 2004.

Continuing her efforts on behalf of Western New York's former atomic workers, Rep. Slaughter introduced legislation to expand the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, which compensates former employees of nuclear facilities who have developed illnesses because of exposure to toxins during their service. Her bill would allow workers at facilities that remained contaminated even after nuclear production ended to apply for compensation and health care under the program.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Sign up today for "LouiseLine," Rep. Slaughter's electronic newsletter, which will keep you updated on her activities in Congress and in the district. Visit www.louise.house.gov for more information.



Rep. Slaughter talks with students at City Honors School in Buffalo about a new report on her web site on how to finance a higher education.

Making College Education More Affordable

In January, Rep. Slaughter marked “Financial Assistance Awareness Month” with events across the district to unveil a new report on financing higher education. She traveled to three schools in her district—Wilson Magnet High School in Rochester, City Honors School in Buffalo and Niagara Falls High School in Niagara Falls—to meet with students and staff to discuss opportunities to help make college more affordable.

The cost of higher education has risen 38 percent in the last ten years, leaving families struggling to cover tuition and related costs. Rep. Slaughter believes that increasing access to education is one of the most important ways to strengthen our economy, communities and families. Her new report can help Western New York families and students navigate the confusing web of resources available to help pay for college. It contains sections on federal aid, federal tax benefits, state aid, other sources of aid and support and student loan repayment options. You can obtain a copy on her newly revamped web site, at www.louise.house.gov, or by calling her nearest office.

Bringing \$1 Million to Niagara Falls Airport

In January, Rep. Slaughter announced that she secured \$1 million for infrastructure improvements at the Niagara Falls International Airport. She gathered with Niagara Falls Mayor Vince Anello, Town of Niagara Supervisor Steve Richards and officials from Niagara County and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to announce the new federal funding.

The funding will be used for runway expansions,

which will provide increased capacity for air cargo operations and passenger carriers and will help prepare for the new terminal.

Niagara Falls International Airport has the largest airstrip in the region and the fourth longest runway in New York State. The airport has a long aviation history as the birthplace of the world’s first supersonic plane and the first commercial helicopter.



Rep. Slaughter presents Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Commissioner David Greenfield, Niagara Falls Mayor Vince Anello and Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Executive Director Lawrence Meckler with \$1 million in federal funds for expansions at the Niagara Falls International Airport.

Promoting New York State’s Wine Industry

Rep. Slaughter is fighting to promote New York’s wine industry, the state’s fastest growing agricultural industry. Currently, New York State law forbids our wine growers—some of the best in the nation—from shipping their products to customers outside the state. This law hurts their ability to compete and denies New York’s farmers and its economy valuable income.

Rep. Slaughter has repeatedly called on Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature to change the law. This year, Pataki announced that he supported this change, and in February, Rep. Slaughter led New York’s Senators and several U.S. Representatives in sending a letter to the New York State Legislature encouraging them to take up and pass this proposal.



914TH AIRLIFT WING

Rep. Slaughter salutes the men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing from Niagara Falls, who are serving our nation bravely in Iraq and around the world.

Bringing Additional Border Patrols to Lake Ontario

In February, Rep. Slaughter joined U.S. Senator Charles Schumer to announce that the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will provide thirteen additional officers to patrol the Lake Ontario shoreline. The presence of armed federal agents will boost security along the northern border and take the burden off local law enforcement.

Rep. Slaughter, a member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, has

been working to make sure that the Rochester Port and the surrounding region will be as safe and secure as possible for the arrival of the new fast ferry.

In January, she met with officials from CBP to tour the Rochester Port to emphasize the importance of strengthening security there in preparation for the fast ferry, one of the first new international border crossings in the U.S. since September 11, 2001.



Rep. Slaughter announces new federal border patrols along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Providing Affordable Housing to Western New York’s Families

In February, Rep. Slaughter joined Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello and officials from local banks and housing organizations to announce \$1.2 million in grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for affordable housing in Buffalo.

The grants were awarded through the Affordable Housing Program, which has provided subsidized

housing to thousands of families in New York State.

Three local groups—St. John Fruit Belt Development Corp., Buffalo Neighborhood Revitalization and the Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.—will use the funds to provide new, affordable housing for hundreds of people in Buffalo.



Rep. Slaughter joins Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello and representatives from Buffalo Revitalization and M&T Bank to announce new federal grants for affordable housing.

March Is Women’s History Month



Rep. Slaughter, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, encourages her constituents to commemorate Women’s History Month in March. Western New York was the birthplace of the women’s rights movement and boasts numerous historic sites. In Congress, Rep. Slaughter has introduced legislation to establish a trail linking these historic sites to

Susan B. Anthony, a pioneer of the women’s movement, lived in Rochester, NY.

Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ61-791 DLC

promote Western New York’s history and to encourage tourism here. Visit the National Park Service at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/> to find historic sites near you.

Log on to www.louise.house.gov

Log on to Rep. Slaughter’s new web site at www.louise.house.gov, where you can find out the latest news on what she is working on in Congress and in the district. The site provides information on Western New York, from tourism to community events to local history. The site also includes special sections on constituent services and educational resources for students, as well as a community calendar for local events. Send an email through the web site if you have an event you would like included.





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www.louise.house.gov

Out and About in the 28th Congressional District

In 2004, Rep. Slaughter has already met with numerous local leaders, constituents and groups in the district. She has:

- Met with the president of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Chamber of Commerce to talk about economic development.
- Discussed homeland security issues with the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Buffalo Division.
- Met with Niagara Falls' new Fire Chief and with the President of the Uniformed Firefighters Local 714.
- Discussed nursing issues with the Dean of the University of Rochester School of Nursing.
- Toured Mount St. Mary's Hospital and Health Center in Niagara Falls.
- Delivered opening remarks at the Alternative Energy Expo in Rochester.
- Visited hospitalized veterans at the VA Medical Center in Buffalo.
- Toured the Rochester Port with Customs and Border Protection officials.



Rep. Slaughter joins Erie County Legislator Elise Cusack and other volunteers at the Food Bank of Western New York in Buffalo to discuss anti-hunger efforts.



Rep. Slaughter presents representatives from HSBC Bank and the South Wedge Planning Committee with a \$140,000 Federal Home Loan award for affordable housing projects in Rochester.